

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this patent application:

Claims 1 to 10 (canceled).

11. (currently amended) An endodontal contra-angle having a head for receiving an endodontal instrument so that the endodontal instrument is supported by the head, and which comprises:

a shank received by the head, wherein the shank penetrates the head of the contra-angle;

means for attaching the shank to the head of the contra-angle; and

a member associated with the head and located between the shank and the attachment means, which is free to rotate within the head;

wherein the member is a pinion fixedly associated with body portions of the head, wherein the endodontal instrument includes a blade portion fixedly assembled on the pinion, and wherein the pinion is overmolded onto the blade portion of the instrument.

12. (previously presented) The endodontal contra-angle

of claim 11 wherein the endodontal instrument is a canal instrument.

13. (previously presented) The endodontal contra-angle of claim 11 wherein the attachment means removably fixes the instrument on the shank.

14. (previously presented) The endodontal contra-angle of claim 11 wherein the pinion is made of an injection-moldable material.

15. (previously presented) The endodontal contra-angle of claim 14 wherein the injection-moldable material is a plastic.

16. (currently amended) The endodontal contra-angle of claim 11 wherein the contra-angle is a reusable part that accepts the endodontal instrument ~~an equipment head~~.

17. (previously presented) The endodontal contra-angle of claim 11 wherein the contra-angle is made entirely of plastic.

18. (previously presented) The endodontal contra-angle of claim 11 wherein the contra-angle operates with a reciprocating movement.

19. (new) The endodontal contra-angle of claim 11 wherein the attachment means is axially aligned with the shank.

20. (new) The endodontal contra-angle of claim 19 wherein the member associated with the head is axially aligned with the attachment means and the shank.